

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1628

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 2102

FOR KUX NEA/INS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, NP

SUBJ: IV GRANTEE: MRS. SUSHILA THAPA

REF: STATE 104089

1. WE UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN ABOUT MRS. THAPA'S POSSIBLE EXPECTATIONS BUT BELIEVE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE MAKE HER UNDERSTAND THAT REALISTICALLY SHE CANNOT EXPECT HIGHEST LEVEL APPOINTMENTS IN U.S. SHE HAS ALSO TOLD US THAT SHE HOPES TO CARRY MESSAGE FROM KING BIRENDRA TO PRESIDENT FORD AND WHILE SHE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO PRESENT IT PERSONALLY TO THE PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT SHE KNOWS IT IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY SHE WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO. IT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT WE WORK OUT A SUITABLE PROCEDURE FOR RECEIVING MESSAGE AND CONVEYING IT IN TURN TO WHITE HOUSE. WE ASSUME YOU ARE MAKING SITUATION CLEAR TO NEPALESE EMBASSY.

2. ALTHOUGH MRS. THAPA UNDERSTANDS THE SITUATION ABOUT A PRESIDENTIAL CALL, BOTH SHE AND HER CABINET COLLEAGUES ARE VERY MUCH CONSCIOUS OF THE PROTOCOL ASPECTS OF TRIPS SUCH AS HERS. THIS CONSCIOUSNESS IS HEIGHTENED BY THE THINLY VEILED FEAR THAT A VISITOR FROM A SMALL COUNTRY LIKE NEPAL MAY RECEIVE SOME SORT OF SECOND CLASS TREATMENT. THUS THE STYLE IN WHICH PARTICULARLY THE WASHINGTON PORTION OF THE TRIP IS HANDLED WILL BE CRUCIAL TO THE OVERALL SUCCESS OF HER PROGRAM. THIS INCLUDES HAVING SOMEONE OF
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AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL ON HAND FOR HER ARRIVAL, MAKING A CAR AVAILABLE

(NOT A LIMOUSINE BUT NOT A TAXI EITHER) FOR HER TRAVEL IN WASHINGTON, AND SEEING THAT SHE GETS AS HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL ACCESS AS POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY AT HEW. HAVING NOW ASSUMED FULL CHARGE OF THE HEALTH MINISTRY SHE IS ANXIOUS TO CALL ON SECRETARY WEINBERGER AND I WOULD URGE YOU TO MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT ON THIS APPOINTMENT AND ON MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, FORMER INR DIVISION CHIEF AND OLD SOUTH ASIA HAND RED AUSTIN WHO I THINK IS IN SECRETARY WEINBERGER'S OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP. A COURTESY CALL ON JOE SISCO OR ROY ATHERTON WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATED BY HER. MRS. THAPA TODAY IS CLEARLY NEPAL'S MOST OUTSTANDING WOMAN LEADER AND MEETINGS WITH ONE OR TWO WOMEN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SHOULD BE ANOTHER HIGH PRIORITY. I RECOGNIZE THIS MAY NOT BE EASY BUT I KNOW YOU WILL INVOLVE YOURSELF PERSONALLY TO MAKE THIS VISIT A SUCCESS. I WILL BE GLAD TO HELP IN ANY WAY I CAN AFTER MY ARRIVAL.

3. IN THE MEANTIME LET ME PASS ON OUR COMPLETE PLEASURE AT THE CHOICE OF PENNY ANDERSON AS THE EXCORT. SHE SOUNDS JUST RIGHT. LIKEWISE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE CHECK UP AT NIH HAS BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED. CARGO

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